

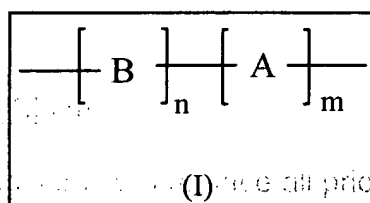
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-36 (Cancelled).

37. (Previously presented) A polymeric compound of relative general formula I



wherein:

A represents a residue of a polymerisable acrylic or vinylic monomer carrying triflusal or HTB, wherein triflusal or HTB are linked to the remainder of the monomer molecule through an *in vivo* hydrolysable covalent bond;

B represents a residue of a second polymerisable monomer;

m and n represent the molar fractions of the monomers A and B in the polymer so that m + n is always 1 and m is always different from 0;

and wherein the A and B units are distributed randomly in the polymer.

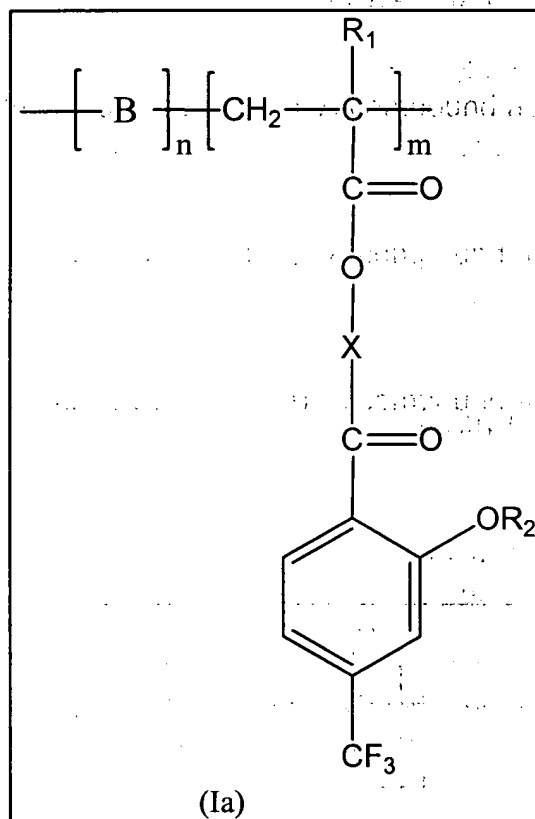
38. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 37 wherein the

hydrolysable covalent bond through which triflusal or HTB are linked is a carboxylic ester bond.

39. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 37 wherein n represents 0.

40. (Previously presented). A compound according to claim 37 wherein n is different from 0.

41. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 37 of relative formula Ia:



wherein:  $R_1$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;  
 $R_2$  represents  $-COCH_3$  or hydrogen;  
 $X$  represents  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_p-$ ;  
 $p$  represents an integer from 1 to 100; and  
 $B$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  have the meaning described in claim 1.

42. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 41 wherein  $R_1$  represents methyl and  $p$  represents 1.

43. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein  $n$  represents 0.

44. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein  $n$  is different from 0.

45. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 44 wherein  $B$  represents a residue of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidone, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, acrylamide, N,N-dimethylacrylamide, vinyl acetate or 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid.

46. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 45 wherein  $B$  represents a residue of N,N- dimethylacrylamide.

47. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 45 wherein  $B$  represents a residue of 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid.

48. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 37 having an

average molecular weight between 10000 and 100000 Daltons.

49. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 43 wherein  $R_2$  represents  $-\text{COCH}_3$ .

50. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 49 having an average molecular weight of 48000 Daltons, a polydispersity index of 1.8 and  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra in accordance with the ones shown in figure 3.

51. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 46 wherein  $R_2$  represents  $-\text{COCH}_3$ .

52. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 47 wherein  $R_2$  represents  $-\text{COCH}_3$ .

53. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51 with a molar fraction m of about 0.2 and a molar fraction n of about 0.8, an average molecular weight of 33000 Daltons, a polydispersity index of 2.4 and  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra in accordance with the ones shown in figure 5.

54. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51 with a molar fraction m of about 0.4 and a molar fraction n of about 0.6, an average molecular weight of 34000 Daltons, a polydispersity index of 2.6 and a  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in accordance with that shown in figure 8.

55. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51 with a molar fraction m of about 0.6 and a molar fraction n of about 0.4, an average molecular weight of 35000 Daltons, a polydispersity index of 2.5 and a  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in

accordance with that shown in figure 7.

56. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51 with a molar fraction m of about 0.8 and a molar fraction n of about 0.2, an average molecular weight of 38000 Daltons, a polydispersity index of 2.8 and a  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum in accordance with that shown in figure 6.

57. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 52 with a molar fraction m of about 0.8 and a molar fraction n of about 0.2, an average molecular weight of 43000 Daltons, a polydispersity index of 2.5 and  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra in accordance with the ones shown in figure 10.

58. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a polymeric compound of formula I according to claim 37 which comprises the radical polymerization of a monomer A and optionally a second monomer B in the molar fractions m and n, respectively, wherein A, B, m and n have the meaning described in claim 37, in the presence of a polymerization initiator, in a suitable solvent.

59. (Previously presented) A device or article which comprises a surface of a non-biological material coated with a polymer carrying triflusal or HTB of formula I according to claim 37, wherein said device is suitable for insertion into the body of a mammal and following insertion, is in contact with blood.

60. (Previously presented) A device or article according to claim 59 which is a vascular prosthesis, an artificial cardiac valve or a stent.

61. (Previously presented) Process for preparing a device or article according to

claim 59 or 60 which comprises coating said device or article with a polymer carrying triflusal or HTB of formula I according to claim 37.

62. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a polymeric compound of formula I according to claim 37 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

63-65. (Cancelled).